

The Power Of Praise and Worship- Pt. 1

Silencing The Enemy

God has a purpose for the ministry of praise and worship

To Possess; to occupy by driving out the previous tenants, to cast out, to consume, to destroy, to disinherit.

God has given the Church an instrument of warfare to drive out, to consume to destroy, to disinherit the devil and occupy.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

³ For though we walk in the **flesh**, we do not war (**conflict, fight, battle, struggle, hostilities,**) after the flesh:

⁴ (For the **weapons** of our warfare (**fighting, feud, struggle, combat**) are not carnal, but mighty (**powerful, strong, forceful**) **through God** to the pulling down of **strong holds**; (**grips, locks, clamps, iron grip, fortresses**)

Ephesians 6:12

¹² For we **wrestle** (**war, struggle, fight**) **not** against **flesh and blood**, but **against**

- principalities,
- powers,
- the rulers of the darkness of this world,
- spiritual wickedness

in high places (**Satan's kingdom; the heavenlies; 2nd heaven**)

The Bible teaches that we, the Church, are to enter into spiritual warfare and fight with spiritual weapons.

- **Praise** is one of the weapons God has given us.
- It is not a carnal weapon but a spiritual weapon of war so that the church may drive out our enemy, the **powers of darkness**,
- and **take possession** of what God has given us, **our inheritance**

Why does God command and desire our praise?

The answer is found in Psalm 8:2: ^{because of our enemies}

“**Out of the mouth** of babes and sucklings hast thou **ordained** (**designed, appointed intended**) **strength** (**power to destroy**) **because of thine enemies**, that thou mightest **still** (**silent, at a standstill, immobilize**) **the enemy** (**adversary**) and the **avenger** (**retaliator punisher**)

The fact is:

- we do not do God a favor when we praise Him;
- we do ourselves a favor and the devil great damage.

God has not ordained praise because He needs it, but because we need to praise Him.

Executing Judgements

Psalm 149

- (this kills the sacred cow that the highest praise is hallelujah and 2. When praises go up, blessings come down; no, it's not just any praise, it's the “high praises of God”)

⁶Let (a command) the **high praises** of God be in their **mouth** (praises that still the enemy in the **heavenlies** (the 2nd heaven) (see also Ephes. 6:12),

- and a **two-edged sword** in their hand (the Word);

⁷To **execute vengeance** (carry out the sentence) upon the heathen, and **punishments** (penalties, retributions, reprimands) upon the people;

- ⁸To **bind** their kings (**rulers**) with **chains**, and their nobles (**lords**) with **fetters** (**shackles, restraints, yokes**) of **iron**; (see also Ephes.6:12)

^{9a}To execute upon them the judgment **written**:

- Col. 2:15 a defeated foe; Jesus spoiled principalities and powers on the cross.

Eph. 1:22 under our feet; everything has been placed under Jesus' feet. That includes the devil. Since we are a part of the Body of Christ, all things are under our feet as well. It doesn't matter what type of problem comes against us—physical, emotional, financial, family, and so forth. We can walk on top of every one of these situations.

- Psalm 91:13: “*Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder.*” This verse uses lions and adders to represent forces that are strong and fierce. It is literally talking about Satan and his demonic host. If we're treading on something, it means we're walking on it. In this case, we are supposed to walk on the devil and demons.

Courtroom scene:

- judge, jury, defendant, plaintiff, bailiff, witnesses, lawyers, all play an important role in the outcome of the trial.
- jury deliberates
- judge (pronounces sentence if found guilty)
- bailiff executes judgment (bind criminal and carry out the sentence)

Spiritually speaking, a judgment and a sentence have been pronounced on the devil. The Word declares that Satan and his works are beneath our feet (Rom. 16:20) It declares that all his power has been spoiled. But this is just the pronouncing of the sentence. That sentence, or judgment, must still be executed.

We the church, are the bailiff's in God's great courtroom. With our praise we bind the devil just as a police official would handcuff a criminal. With our praise we incarcerate him. The praises of God have divine power to execute the judgment He has declared on the enemy.

The devil is a convicted criminal, and God has a warrant out for his arrest. What are we going to do about it?

9b this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

- The **honor of executing God's judgement and vengeance on the powers of the air** has been given to the Church.
- It is an honor that God has bestowed upon you and me. It is done with joy in our hearts as we celebrate the victory of our Lord.

Conclusion:

Ephes. 6:12 and 2 Cor. 10:4 give insight as to the extent and nature of our warfare against spiritual strongholds

- Through praise and worship we literally bind the powers and forces that oppress
- High praises are armed with the power to bring salvation, healing and deliverance.
- Through praise and worship we launce our spiritual weapons, pulling down strongholds"
- Spiritual warfare takes place in heavenly places, or in the heavens
- Satan is loose in the heavenlies; he doesn't reside in hell yet as many people think. (Rev. 12:7,8)

Let us as the Church of God arise with praise in our mouths, as we execute His judgment upon the powers of darkness.